

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
2 a modular multiplier including a plurality of independent computation channels,
3 said plurality of independent computation channels including a first computation channel
4 and a second computation channel;
5 a coupling device interposed between said first computation channel and said
6 second computation channel to receive a first control signal and to couple said first
7 computation channel to said second computation channel in response to a receipt of said
8 first control signal.
- 1 2. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said modular multiplier comprises
2 a linear systolic array of processing elements, said linear systolic array of processing
3 elements including said plurality of independent computation channels.
- 1 3. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said coupling device comprises a
2 coupling device to receive a second control signal and to selectively couple said first
3 computation channel to said second computation channel in response to a state of said
4 second control signal.
- 1 4. The apparatus as set forth in claim 3, said apparatus having a first mode of
2 operation corresponding to a first state of said second control signal wherein said first
3 computation channel is operably separated from said second computation channel and a
4 second mode of operation corresponding to a second state of said second control signal
5 wherein said first computation channel is operably coupled to said second computation
6 channel via said coupling device.
- 1 5. The apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein said first computation channel and
2 said second computation channel operate as two n-bit modular multipliers in said first
3 mode of operation and as a single 2n-bit modular multiplier in said second mode of
4 operation, where n is an integer.

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- 1 6. The apparatus as set forth in claim 5, where n is 512.
- 1 7. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said modular multiplier comprises
2 a Montgomery multiplier.
- 1 8. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said a coupling device comprises a
2 first multiplexer coupled between an output of said first computation channel and an
3 input of said second computation channel and a second multiplexer coupled between an
4 output of said second computation channel and an input of said first computation
5 channel.
- 1 9. A processor comprising:
2 a modular multiplier including a plurality of independent computation channels,
3 said plurality of independent computation channels including a first computation channel
4 and a second computation channel;
5 a coupling device interposed between said first computation channel and said
6 second computation channel to receive a first control signal and to couple said first
7 computation channel to said second computation channel in response to a receipt of said
8 first control signal.
- 1 10. The processor as set forth in claim 9, wherein said modular multiplier comprises
2 a linear systolic array of processing elements, said linear systolic array of processing
3 elements including said plurality of independent computation channels.
- 1 11. The processor as set forth in claim 9, wherein said coupling device comprises a
2 coupling device to receive a second control signal and to selectively couple said first
3 computation channel to said second computation channel in response to a state of said
4 second control signal.
- 1 12. The processor as set forth in claim 11, said processor having a first mode of
2 operation corresponding to a first state of said second control signal wherein said first
3 computation channel is operably separated from said second computation channel and a

1 18. The system as set forth in claim 17, wherein said modular multiplier comprises a
2 linear systolic array of processing elements, said linear systolic array of processing
3 elements including said plurality of independent computation channels.

1 19. The system as set forth in claim 17, wherein said coupling device comprises a
2 coupling device to receive a second control signal and to selectively couple said first
3 computation channel to said second computation channel in response to a state of said
4 second control signal.

1 20. The system as set forth in claim 19, said second processor having a first mode of
2 operation corresponding to a first state of said second control signal wherein said first
3 computation channel is operably separated from said second computation channel and a
4 second mode of operation corresponding to a second state of said second control signal
5 wherein said first computation channel is operably coupled to said second computation
6 channel via said coupling device.

1 21. The system as set forth in claim 20, wherein said first computation channel and
2 said second computation channel operate as two n-bit modular multipliers in said first
3 mode of operation and as a single 2n-bit modular multiplier in said second mode of
4 operation, where n is an integer.

1 22. The system as set forth in claim 17, wherein said a coupling device comprises a
2 first multiplexer coupled between an output of said first computation channel and an
3 input of said second computation channel and a second multiplexer coupled between an
4 output of said second computation channel and an input of said first computation
5 channel.

1 23. A method comprising:
2 receiving a first control signal and a plurality of operands; and
3 performing a modular multiplication operation on said plurality of operands
4 utilizing a modular multiplier including a plurality of independent computation channels,
5 said plurality of independent computation channels including a first computation channel

4 receiving a first control signal and a plurality of operands; and
5 performing a modular multiplication operation on said plurality of operands
6 utilizing a modular multiplier including a plurality of independent computation channels,
7 said plurality of independent computation channels including a first computation channel
8 and a second computation channel, wherein performing said modular multiplication
9 operation comprises:
10 coupling said first computation channel with said second computation
11 channel in response to receiving said first control signal;
12 performing a first portion of said modular multiplication operation
13 utilizing said first computation channel; and
14 performing a second portion of said modular multiplication operation
15 utilizing said second computation channel.

28. The machine-readable medium as set forth in claim 27, wherein performing a modular multiplication operation comprises performing a modular multiplication operation on said plurality of operands utilizing a modular multiplier including a linear systolic array of processing elements, said linear systolic array of processing elements including said plurality of independent computation channels.

1 29. The machine-readable medium as set forth in claim 27, wherein:
2 performing a first portion of said modular multiplication operation comprises
3 providing said plurality of operands to said first computation channel and processing said
4 plurality of operands utilizing said first computation channel to produce an intermediate
5 result;
6 coupling said first computation channel with said second computation channel
7 comprises providing said intermediate result to said second computation channel; and
8 performing a second portion of said modular multiplication operation comprises
9 processing said intermediate result utilizing said second computation channel.

1 30. The machine-readable medium as set forth in claim 27, said method further
2 comprising receiving a second control signal, wherein coupling said first computation
3 channel with said second computation channel comprises selectively coupling said first

